

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) In a system for communicating between a plurality of transmitters and a plurality of associated receivers, utilizing repetitive time frames, each time frame subdivided into a plurality of time slots, at least a first time slot allocated to a communication between a first transmitter and a first receiver, at least a second time slot allocated to a communication between a second transmitter and a second receiver, and an Nth time slot allocated to a communication between an Nth transmitter and an Nth receiver, an automatic gain control (AGC) system comprising:

means for measuring, at said first through Nth receivers, the received signal strength only during said at least first time slot associated with the respective receiver/transmitter pair, in each of a plurality of successive time frames; [[and]]

means for utilizing said measured signal strength to set [[an]] initial gain level settings of the first receiver of said first through Nth receivers at said ~~at least first~~ allocated time slot in a subsequent time frame;

means for storing a plurality of said initial gain level settings of successive time frames;

means for determining a trend of the stored initial gain level settings; and
means for utilizing said trend to control the gain of said first through Nth receivers during the corresponding time slot in a subsequent time frame.

2. (currently amended) The AGC system of claim 1, wherein said subsequent time frame is ~~[[the]]~~ a next consecutive time frame.

3. (currently amended) The AGC system of claim 1, wherein said AGC system further includes:

means for storing a plurality of gain level settings sampled during said single time frame; and

means for averaging said gain level settings to determine said initial gain control level of said ~~[[receiver]]~~ receivers during ~~[[the]]~~ a corresponding time slot in a subsequent time frame.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The AGC system of claim 1, wherein said AGC system further includes:

~~means for storing a plurality of said initial gain levels settings of successive time frames;~~

means for determining ~~[[the]]~~ an average of the stored initial gain ~~[[levels]]~~ level settings; and

means for utilizing said average to control the gain of said ~~[[receiver]]~~ receivers during ~~[[the]]~~ a corresponding time slot in a subsequent time frame.

6. (currently amended) The AGC system of claim 1, wherein said AGC system further includes:

means for storing ~~[[a plurality of]]~~ said measured signal strengths;

means for determining ~~[[the]]~~ a trend of the stored signal strengths; and

means for utilizing said trend to control the gain of said [[receiver]] receivers during [[the]] a corresponding time slot in a subsequent time frame.

7. (original) The AGC system of claim 6 wherein a microprocessor is used for said determining means and both of said utilizing means.

8. (currently amended) The AGC system of claim 1, wherein said AGC system further includes:

means for storing [[a plurality of]] said measured signal strengths;
means for determining [[the]] an average of the stored signal strengths; and
means for utilizing said average to control the gain of said [[receiver]] receivers during [[the]] a corresponding time slot in a subsequent time frame.

9. (original) The AGC system of claim 8 wherein a microprocessor is used for said determining means and said utilizing means.

10. (currently amended) In a system for communicating between a plurality of transmitters and a plurality of associated receivers, utilizing repetitive time frames, each time frame subdivided into a plurality of time slots, at least a first time slot allocated to a communication between a first transmitter and a first receiver, at least a second time slot allocated to a communication between a second transmitter and a second receiver, and an Nth time slot allocated to a communication between an Nth transmitter and an Nth receiver, an automatic gain control (AGC) method comprising:

measuring, at said first through Nth receivers [[receiver]], the received signal strength only during said at least first time slot in each of a plurality of successive time frames; [[and]]

utilizing said measured signal strength to set [[an]] initial gain level settings of the first through Nth receivers [[receiver]] at said at least first time slot in a subsequent time frame;

storing a plurality of said initial gain level settings of successive time frames;
determining a trend of the stored initial gain level settings; and
utilizing said trend to control the gain of said first through Nth receivers
during a corresponding time slot in a subsequent time frame.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The AGC method of claim 10, wherein said AGC method further includes:

storing a plurality of said initial gain levels settings of successive time frames;

determining [[the]] an average of the stored initial gain [[levels]] level settings; and

utilizing said average to control the gain of said first through Nth receivers [[receiver]] during [[the]] a corresponding time slot in a subsequent time frame.

13. (currently amended) The AGC method of claim 10, wherein said AGC method further includes:

storing [[of a plurality of]] said measured signal strengths;

determining [[the]] a trend of the stored signal strengths; and
utilizing said trend to control the gain of said first through Nth receivers
[[receiver]] during [[the]] a corresponding time slot in a subsequent time frame.

14. (currently amended) The AGC method of claim 1, wherein said AGC method further includes:

storing [[a plurality of]] said measured signal strengths;
determining [[the]] an average of the stored signal strengths; and
utilizing said average to control the gain of said first through Nth receivers
[[receiver]] during [[the]] a corresponding time slot in a subsequent time frame.